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phone, work on the run, work from remote locations, work at client offices, keeping up with the news - all while juggling your own personal life and staying connected with the

Gail Perry • Oct. 10, 2014



Anymore, the typical workday is a combination of work at your desk, work on the phone, work on the run, work from remote locations, work at client offices, keeping up with the news – all while juggling your own personal life and staying connected with the lives of friends and family. Almost everyone has a smartphone, a tablet, a laptop, or some combination thereof – devices that can come with you and, more importantly, keep up with you as you move from one project to the next.

It's likely you have familiarity with apps – those little programs, *applications*, that tie a virtual string around your finger, help you find your way when you get lost, remember your favorite songs, and point out the best restaurants. You might have

your favorites, the apps you feel like you can't live without, or you might be looking

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We're still experimenting and having a grand time learning about these new tools as well as being reminded of many we already know and love.

So as not to scare you off, we're going to dish these out slowly. We'll start sharing our new-found wealth of app recommendations in the spotlight section of our daily newsletters (if you're not already signed up, you can do so at www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/reg/newsletter).

Evernote ([iOS](#) – [Android](#))

Hands down, the favorite app of our thought leaders is Evernote. According to the manufacturers, Evernote is a suite of software and services designed for notetaking and archiving. A note can be a piece of formatted text, a full webpage or webpage excerpt, a photograph, a voice memo, or a handwritten note. Notes can also have file attachments.

Rick Richardson, CEO of [Richardson Media & Technologies](#), LLC, is an Evernote fan. "It is the focus of all my research, storage and organization. It's the way I'm going almost paperless. Don't know what I'd do without it."

If that's not enough of an endorsement, here's what Tom Hood, CEO of the [Maryland Association of CPAs](#) and the Business Learning Institute has this to say: "Evernote is truly my second brain and I definitely need one of those! It runs across all devices – iPhone, iPad, and Mac laptop – and it collects and organizes almost all of my information in an easy to search, context rich environment. For example, while I am at a conference, when I take a photo of the agenda – it pops into Evernote with the date, time, and location stamp."

"It not only saves the picture of the document but can search on the text (via Optical Character Recognition – OCR)," Hood added. "Like the feel of pen and paper?"

Evernote reads your writing and can search on your written notes just as easily. I use

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(which was recently acquired by SAP), organizes travel plans into an itinerary that has all of your trip details in one place.

Donny Shimamoto, founder and senior member of the [IntrapriseTechKnowlogies LLC's](#) (ITK) consulting and management team, says that TripIt, "Is a must for any frequent traveler. Forward your air, hotel, or car rental confirmations to it and it puts it all together into one itinerary, including inserting maps between the airport and hotel, meeting to meeting, etc. I signed up for the Pro account which also provides me with flight status, baggage claim, and other up to the minute updates."

John Higgins, co-founder of [CPA Crossings](#), LLC, concurs (no pun intended!). "This is a travel itinerary app that populates every aspect of a trip automatically by simply forwarding the confirmation emails (airline, rental car, etc.) to TripIt and my office manager fills in the rest (meeting locations, etc.) The best part is when I get in the rental car, TripIt integrates directly to my navigation app on the phone, so no more getting lost!"

Uber ([iOS](#) – [Android](#))

Uber is one of the new wave of a ridesharing services available in large cities. According to the company website, you can, "Get a taxi, private car, or rideshare from your mobile phone. Uber connects you with a driver in minutes. Use our app in cities around the world."

Jim Boomer, CIO of [Boomer Consulting](#), and Mark Koziel, vice president of firm services and global alliances at the [AICPA](#), are frequent travelers and enjoy the ease of using Uber for on-demand transportation. "There are times when a taxi is not the best solution!" said Boomer.

Tallie ([iOS](#) – [Android](#))

“Tallie has reduced my expense reporting time by at least one hour per week and

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Dropbox is a free file sharing service that lets you bring your photos, docs, and videos anywhere and share them easily with others. Several of our thought leaders use Dropbox regularly.

Leslie Shiner, owner of [The ShinerGroup](#), uses Dropbox for access to often-used files. Futurist, author, and speaker Rebecca Ryan of [Next Generation Consulting](#), uses Dropbox for sharing files with her team while she is on the road.

AroundMe (iOS – Android)

AroundMe is an app that allows users to quickly find nearby Points Of Interest (POI) such as restaurants, hotels, theaters, parking, hospitals and much more.

Dr. Bob Spencer, owner of [Twenty Seconds in the Future](#) and associate at K2 Enterprises, said that AroundMe “is a great app when traveling and looking a place to eat, restaurant, movie theater, mall, gas station and so forth near to you.”

Flipboard (iOS – Android)

According to the company website, Flipboard is your personal magazine. It's a single place to discover, collect and share the news you care about. Add your favorite social networks, publications, and blogs to stay connected to the topics and people closest to you.

Brian Tankersley, director of strategic relationships for [K2 Enterprises](#) and owner of Brian F. Tankersley, Consulting and Professional Development, says that Flipboard “is a great visual news reader with seamless social sharing on all major platforms.”

Google Maps (iOS – Android)

Google Maps is a desktop and mobile web mapping service app provided by Google.

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This app links to your registered Starbucks card so you can pay for purchases and earn Stars through your phone. You can also reload your card balance, find your nearest store, and even leave a digital tip for your barista.

Jennifer Wilson, partner and co-founder of [ConvergenceCoaching](#), LLC, relies on her Starbucks app to help her find Starbucks locations when she travels.

So... this is just the tips of the apps iceberg, as it were, and we'll be exploring many more of the favorite apps of our thought leaders and our other readers in the months ahead. Keep an eye on the spotlight section in your *CPA Practice Advisor* [newsletters](#) as we introduce more apps that can make both your work life and your personal life a bit easier.

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